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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Follow-up to decisions taken by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its session in 1993

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (Nations XLIV) of 23 May 1968

Addendum

* E/C.2/1995/1.

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Note

At its 1993 session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decided to request Pax Christi International to submit to the Committee, at its session in 1995, a report on its activities for the period 1992-1993 (see E/1993/63, para. 41).

The report submitted by the organization is reproduced below. The material has been reproduced as submitted and therefore reflects the policies and terminology of the organization concerned. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL

(Category II)

New York

Our Pax Christi team at the United Nations in New York deals mainly with the following issues: disarmament, arms trade and security issues, social development and human rights, child soldiers, street children and refugees.

In terms of the above issues, team members attend meetings of relevant United Nations bodies and committees, network with other non-governmental organizations with similar agendas, call the permanent missions to the United Nations of appropriate countries, present interventions and develop research files.

There is an active participation of our Pax Christi representative with the NGO Committee on Disarmament in its three subcommittees. Our representative also attends the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly on issues of security and disarmament. He has compiled resource materials on issues such as the Register of Conventional Arms, and has had contacts with the Centre for Disarmament Affairs of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

The other representatives attend the meetings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly on human rights issues and the subcommittee meetings, on child soldiers and street children, of the NGO Committee on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). They also attend the meetings of the NGO Committees on Human Rights, on the Family and on Ageing. There is also participation with the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

A major event for spring 1993 was the presentation, by the main representative, of all the signatures collected by Pax Christi sections world wide asking the United Nations to stop the Middle East arms trade. Seven thousand signatures on this Pax Christi International petition ("for a moratorium on the arms trade in the Middle East") were presented to the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 1 April 1993.

On 18 October 1993, about 50 European and Asian participants in Pax Christi International's working groups and commissions paid a visit to the United Nations in New York. The programme was prepared by the United Nations team of Pax Christi International. In the morning, participants could choose among three possibilities: a visit to the permanent missions of the United Nations, or a discussion at the Centre for Disarmament Affairs. In the afternoon all participants assembled at the Church Centre, United Nations Plaza. A presentation was given by the Pax Christi United Nations/New York team, including information about the preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, refugee issues, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and United Nations reform. Then the group was divided into two groups. One group interested in human rights issues met with a non-governmental organization specialist on the rights of children and related issues, and on linking with

non-governmental organization agencies and other non-governmental organizations in human rights advocacy. Those interested primarily in security, demilitarization and arms trade issues met with the former Director of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and representative of the Secretary-General at the conferences on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The entire group met also on mechanisms for effective non-governmental organization action at the United Nations.

In autumn 1993, the United Nations team spent much of its time on issues related to the upcoming World Summit for Social Development. Work was also done regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in December 1993. Two resolutions before the Third Committee of the General Assembly in early December 1993 were on the plight of children as soldiers and victims of war, and as victims in other ways. These resolutions have gained the support of a growing number of delegations. Pax Christi International was able to help to build the climate for this effort by interventions at the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

Pax Christi International and the United Nations will both celebrate golden jubilees in 1995. The main representative has been invited to participate in a group being asked to make suggestions for contributions to the United Nations commemoration and to propose contributions that the United Nations could make in the next 50 years. Pax Christi International has been working on a proposal for education about the United Nations that will be implemented by the national sections and associated groups and corresponding members.

Pax Christi International participates in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (1995). Statements on anti-personnel land-mines and on the link between the arms trade and development have been prepared. The topic has been discussed at the different meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and Development of Pax Christi International in 1992 and 1993. The World Summit is currently a primary focus of our team in New York.

Thanks to the commitment of the United Nations team in New York, many national sections have been participating in the national and international campaigns for a total ban on land-mines. Many national sections are taking the leadership in these national campaigns. A similar action on the part of most of the national sections concerns the issue of the Register of Conventional Arms and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. National sections have done advocacy work with their Governments to support the Register and the review of the Treaty. Since 1992, the Register and the Treaty have been in the agenda of the Commission for Security, Demilitarization and Arms Trade of Pax Christi International. The German section spent about a year at the United Nations in New York doing research and advocacy work on the topics of the Treaty and the Register.

The United Nations team of Pax Christi regularly responds to requests from Pax Christi International and from its national sections for information, resources, resource materials and personnel contacts.

Geneva, human rights, fact-finding and missions

International Pax Christi fact-finding visits and missions have been sent to study the human rights situations in Georgia (1992), Armenia and Azerbaijan (1992), Haiti (October 1993), the Sudan (November 1993) and Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Territories (December 1993). An observer team was sent to Angola in 1992. The Pax Christi representative in Geneva, and his team, are active primarily in the field of human rights, most notably through the organizing of briefings and through the presenting of interventions at the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

At the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1992, Pax Christi International made interventions on the situation in the Occupied Territories, Haiti, Western Sahara, Nagorny Karabakh, Northern Ireland and El Salvador. Pax Christi International also submitted statements, together with other non-governmental organizations on such issues as the rights of the child, the exploitation of women, the debt crisis and the right to development..

Pax Christi International has made interventions at the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (August 1992). The movement intervened in such issues as Israel and the Occupied Territories, the former Yugoslavia, Bougainville, the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), and, in close cooperation with other non-governmental organizations, the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples and "Apartheid, racism and discrimination".

In 1993, interventions were submitted to the Commission on Human Rights (forty-ninth session) on the rights of the child, the situation of the Romanian Greek Catholic Church, the former Yugoslavia, Haiti, the World Conference on Human Rights, the rights of persons in detention and the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the question of conscientious objection to military service. Joint statements with other non-governmental organizations were made on anti-personnel land-mines and on extreme poverty.

Interventions were made at the forty-fifth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (August 1993) on issues such as intolerance and discrimination, the former Yugoslavia and Haiti.

Pax Christi International participated in the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, June 1993. On this occasion, a six-member delegation was formed.

Pax Christi International publishes a bimonthly Newsletter in English and French. It covers information, reports, announcements of activities, seminars and conferences, and news from affiliated groups, from the national sections, from the international movement and from our representatives at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. There is a catalogue which briefly describes a broad range of Pax Christi publications on topics such as human rights, security and disarmament, North-South relations and the United Nations.

Detailed reports of the work of the Pax Christi team are regularly submitted to the Executive Committee and to the appropriate commissions and/or working groups of Pax Christi International. They also report regularly on United Nations initiatives and developments in the various magazines of national sections of Pax Christi.